

OBLON
SPIVAK
McCLELLAND
MAIER
&
NEUSTADT
P.C.

Docket No.: 217770US0PCT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

NORMAN F. OBLON
(703) 413-3000
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SURINDER SACHAR
(703) 413-3000
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RE: Application Serial No.: 10/019,282
Applicants: Takashi SHIBATA, et al.
Filing Date: January 2, 2002
For: GENE ENCODING CYCLIC LIPOPEPTIDE
ACYLASE AND EXPRESSION OF THE SAME
Group Art Unit:
Examiner:

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

Petition Under 37 CFR 1.181 To Withdraw Holding of Abandonment

Copy of Response to Notification of Missing Requirements

Copy of Preliminary Amendment (with cover sheet)

Copy of Canceled Check

Copy of Declaration and Power of Attorney (3 pages)

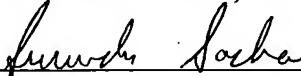
Copy of Date-Stamped Filing Receipt

Copy of Notification of Missing Requirements

Our check in the amount of _____ is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon

Registration No. 24,618

Customer Number

22850

(703) 413-3000 (phone)
(703) 413-2220 (fax)

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: : **ATTN: PCT Legal Office**
Takashi SHIBATA et al. : INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO:
SERIAL NO: 10/019,282 : PCT/JP00/04285
FILED: January 2, 2002 : INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE:
: June 28, 2000

FOR: GENE ENCODING CYCLIC LIPOPEPTIDE ACYLASE AND EXPRESSION OF
THE SAME

PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.181 TO WITHDRAW
HOLDING OF ABANDONMENT

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS & TRADEMARKS
Box PCT
Alexandria, Virginia 22313

SIR:

Applicant respectfully petitions the U.S. PCT Office to withdraw its holding of
abandonment of the above-identified application based on the evidence presented herewith.

A notification of abandonment was mailed on December 22, 2003 stating that the
present application is held to be abandoned since applicant has failed to respond to the
notification of missing requirements mailed 03/19/2002 within the time period set therein.

Applicants, however, have timely responded to the notification of missing
requirements as evidenced by the enclosed copy of the undersigned's date-stamped filing
receipt which shows that a duly executed declaration along with a response to notice of
missing requirements and a preliminary amendment were filed on 11 April 2002. Applicants
also submitted a check in the amount of \$942.00 to cover the additional claim fees. A copy
of the canceled check is also attached hereto, as well as a copy of the papers submitted on

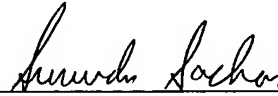
11 April 2002. The undersigned attorney of record hereby states that the attached copies are in fact true copies of the original papers filed on 11 April 2002.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Applicant therefore believes that sufficient evidence has been presented to withdraw the holding of abandonment. An early and favorable action is hereby solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Marvin J. Spivak
Registration No. 24,913
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423
Attorneys of Record

CUSTOMER NUMBER
22050

1940 Duke Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 413-3000

O.S.&M. File No. 217770US0PCT

By NFO/rkm/FF

Due date 05/19/02

Serial No. 10/019,282

COPY

In the Matter of the Application of Takashi SHIBATA et al.

For GENE ENCODING CYCLIC LIPOPEPTIDE ACYLASE AND
EXPRESSION OF THE SAME

The following has been received in the U.S. Patent Office on the date stamped hereon:

- ☐ ___ pgs. Specification, ___ Claims (English Translation)
- ☒ Response to Notice of Missing Requirement Under 35 U.S.C. 371
- ☒ Combined Declaration, Petition & Power of Attorney (3 pages)
- ☒ Copy of Notification of Missing Requirements
- ☒ Preliminary Amendment
- ☐ Petition for Extension of Time
- ☒ Check for \$942.00; ☒ Dep. Acct. Order Form
- ☐ Verified Statement (Declaration) Claiming Small Entity Status
- ☐ Submission of Verified Statement (Dec.) Claiming Small Entity Status
- ☐ Declaration of _____
- ☐ Letter Requesting Approval of Drawing Changes
- ☐ Drawings ___ sheets
- ☐ List of Related Cases
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement; ☐ PTO-1449
- ☐ Cited References ()
- ☐ _____ Search Report
- ☐ Statement of Relevancy

DATE RECEIVED **Rec'd PCT/PTO 11 APR 2002**

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER, & NEUSTADT, P.C.
CRYSTAL SQUARE FIVE SUITE 400
1755 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY
ARLINGTON, VA 22202

FIRST UNION NATIONAL BANK
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DATE

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\$942.00

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DOCKET

217770US

CLAIM FEE

[Signature]

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

⑈ 266 289 ⑈ ⑆ 056007604 ⑆ 2065173481544 ⑈

⑈ 0000094200 ⑈

ENDORSE HERE:

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PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

13-1050001

04-15-2002

FOR CREDIT ADVISE

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents, Box PCT
 United States Patent and Trademark Office
 Washington, D.C. 20231
 www.uspto.gov

U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER NO.	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO.
10/019,282	Takashi Shibata	217770US0PCT

22850
 OBLON SPIVAK MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT PC
 FOURTH FLOOR
 1755 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY
 ARLINGTON, VA 22202

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.	
PCT/JP00/04285	
I.A. FILING DATE	PRIORITY DATE
06/28/2000	07/02/1999

CONFIRMATION NO. 7785

371 FORMALITIES LETTER



OC000000007659404

COPY

Date Mailed: 03/19/2002

Dec. 2nd 5-19-02

NOTIFICATION OF MISSING REQUIREMENTS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)

The following items have been submitted by the applicant or the IB to the United States Patent and Trademark Office as an Elected Office (37 CFR 1.495):

- U.S. Basic National Fees
- Priority Document
- Biochemical Sequence Listing
- Copy of IPE Report
- Copy of references cited in ISR
- Copy of the International Application
- Copy of the International Search Report
- Information Disclosure Statements
- Request for Immediate Examination

RECEIVED

MAR 25 2002

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND
 MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

The following items **MUST** be furnished within the period set forth below in order to complete the requirements for acceptance under 35 U.S.C. 371:

- Oath or declaration of the inventors, in compliance with 37 CFR 1.497(a) and (b), identifying the application by the International application number and international filing date.

ALL OF THE ITEMS SET FORTH ABOVE MUST BE SUBMITTED WITHIN TWO (2) MONTH FROM THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR BY 22 or 32 MONTHS (where 37 CFR 1.495 applies) FROM THE PRIORITY DATE FOR THE APPLICATION, WHICHEVER IS LATER. FAILURE TO PROPERLY RESPOND WILL RESULT IN ABANDONMENT.

The time period set above may be extended by filing a petition and fee for extension of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

The following items **MUST** be furnished within the period set forth below:

• The nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosure contained in this application does not comply with the requirements for such a disclosure as set forth in 37 CFR 1.821-1.825 for the following reason(s):

- A copy of the "Sequence Listing" in computer readable form has not been submitted as required by 37 CFR 1.821(e).

■ APPLICANT MUST PROVIDE:

- An initial or substitute computer readable form (CRF) of the "Sequence Listing."

• For questions regarding compliance to 37 CFR 1.821-1.825 requirements, please contact:

- For Rules Interpretation, call (703) 308-4216
- To Purchase PatentIn Software, call (703) 306-2600
- For PatentIn Software Program Help, call (703) 306-4119 or e-mail at patin21help@uspto.gov or patin3help@uspto.gov

- A copy of the "Sequence Listing" in computer readable form has not been submitted as required by 37 CFR 1.821(e).

Applicant is reminded that any communications to the United States Patent and Trademark Office must be mailed to the address given in the heading and include the U.S. application no. shown above (37 CFR 1.5)

*A copy of this notice **MUST** be returned with the response.*

CHRISTINE S WASHINGTON

Telephone: (703) 305-3752

PART 1 - ATTORNEY/APPLICANT COPY

U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER NO.	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.	ATTY. DOCKET NO.
10/019,282	PCT/JP00/04285	217770US0PCT

Docket No. 217770US0PCT

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Takashi SHIBATA et al.

SERIAL NO: 10/019,282

FILED: January 2, 2002

FOR: GENE ENCODING CYCLIC LIPOPEPTIDE ACYLASE AND EXPRESSION OF THE SAME

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

- ☐ No additional fee is required
- ☐ Small entity status of this application under 37 C.F.R. §1.9 and §1.27 is claimed.
- ☒ Additional documents filed herewith: Response to Notification/Notification of Missing Requirements/Filing Receipt Declaration/Check for \$942.00

The Fee has been calculated as shown below:

CLAIMS	CLAIMS REMAINING		HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID	NO. EXTRA CLAIMS	RATE	CALCULATIONS
TOTAL	49	MINUS	20	29	x \$18 =	\$522.00
INDEPENDENT	8	MINUS	3	5	x \$84 =	\$420.00
		<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS			+ \$280 =	\$0.00
		TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS				\$942.00
		<input type="checkbox"/> Reduction by 50% for filing by Small Entity				\$0.00
		<input type="checkbox"/> Recordation of Assignment			+ \$40 =	\$0.00
		TOTAL				\$942.00

- ☒ A check in the amount of **\$942.00** is attached.
- ☒ Please charge any additional Fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☒ If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time may be charged to Deposit Account No. 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

COPY

Norman F. Oblon

Registration No. 24,618

Surinder Sachar

Registration No. 34,423



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(OSMMN 10/01)

217770US-0PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
TAKASHI SHIBATA ET AL : ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION
SERIAL NO: 10/019,282 :
FILED: JANUARY 2, 2002 :
FOR: GENE ENCODING CYCLIC :
LIPOPEPTIDE ACYLASE AND
EXPRESSION OF THE SAME

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown on the marked-up copy following this amendment to read as follows.

3. (Amended) A recombinant vector comprising the gene of claim 1.
4. (Amended) An expression vector functionally comprising the gene of claim 1.
5. (Amended) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with the vector of claim 3.
10. (Amended) A recombinant vector comprising the gene of claim 8.
11. (Amended) An expression vector functionally comprising the gene of claim 8.

12. (Amended) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with a vector of claim 10.

21. (Amended) A recombinant vector comprising the DNA of claim 19.

22. (Amended) An expression vector comprising the DNA of claim 19.

23. (Amended) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with the vector of claim 21.

26. (Amended) A method for deacylating a side chain acylamino group of a cyclic lipopeptide substance into an amino group, which method comprises culturing a host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 4, and bringing the cyclic lipopeptide substance into contact with the obtained culture or a treated product thereof.

Please add the following new claims.

27. (New) A recombinant vector comprising the gene of claim 2.

28. (New) An expression vector functionally comprising the gene of claim 2.

29. (New) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with the vector of claim 4.

30. (New) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with the vector of claim 27.

31. (New) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with the vector of claim 28.

32. (New) A method of producing cyclic lipopeptide acylase, which comprises culturing a host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 28, and harvesting, from the obtained culture, cyclic lipopeptide acylase capable of catalyzing a reaction to deacylate a side chain acylamino group of a cyclic lipopeptide substance into an amino group.

33. (New) A cyclic lipopeptide acylase produced by the production method of claim 32.

34. (New) A recombinant vector comprising the gene of claim 9.

35. (New) An expression vector functionally comprising the gene of claim 9.

36. (New) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with a vector of claim 34.

37. (New) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with a vector of claim 35.

38. (New) A method of producing cyclic lipopeptide acylase, which comprises culturing a host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 35, and harvesting, from the obtained culture, cyclic lipopeptide acylase capable of catalyzing a reaction to deacylate a side chain acylamino group of a cyclic lipopeptide substance into an amino group.

39. (New) A cyclic lipopeptide acylase produced by the production method of claim 38.

40. (New) A recombinant vector comprising the DNA of claim 20.

41. (New) An expression vector comprising the DNA of claim 20.

42. (New) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with the vector of claim 40.

43. (New) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with the vector of claim 41.

44. (New) A method of producing cyclic lipopeptide acylase, which comprises culturing a host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 41, and harvesting, from the obtained culture, cyclic lipopeptide acylase capable of catalyzing a reaction to deacylate a side chain acylamino group of a cyclic lipopeptide substance into an amino group.

45. (New) A cyclic lipopeptide acylase produced by the production method of claim 44.

46. (New) A method for deacylating a side chain acylamino group of a cyclic lipopeptide substance into an amino group, which method comprising culturing a host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 11 and bringing the cyclic lipopeptide substance into contact with the obtained culture or a treated product thereof.

47. (New) A method for deacylating a side chain acylamino group of a cyclic lipopeptide substance into an amino group, which method comprising culturing a host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 35 and bringing the cyclic lipopeptide substance into contact with the obtained culture or a treated product thereof.

48. (New) A method for deacylating a side chain acylamino group of a cyclic lipopeptide substance into an amino group, which method comprising culturing a host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 22 and bringing the cyclic lipopeptide substance into contact with the obtained culture or a treated product thereof.

49. (New) A method for deacylating a side chain acylamino group of a cyclic lipopeptide substance into an amino group, which method comprising culturing a host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 41 and bringing the cyclic lipopeptide substance into contact with the obtained culture or a treated product thereof.

REMARKS

Claims 1-49 are active in the present application. Claims 3-5, 10-12, 21-23 and 26 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. Claims 27-49 are new claims. Support for the new claims is found in the original claims. No new matter is added. An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

COPY

Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 24,618

Stefan U. Koschmieder, Ph.D.
Registration No. 50,238



22850

(703) 413-3000
Fax #: (703) 413-2220
NFO:SUK\la
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Marked-Up Copy
Serial No: 09/926,851
Amendment Filed on:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

- 3. (Amended) A recombinant vector comprising the gene of claim 1 [or 2].
- 4. (Amended) An expression vector functionally comprising the gene of claim 1 [or 2].
- 5. (Amended) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with the vector of claim 3 [or 4].
- 10. (Amended) A recombinant vector comprising the gene of claim 8 [or 9].
- 11. (Amended) An expression vector functionally comprising the gene of claim 8 [or 9].
- 12. (Amended) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with a vector of claim 10 [or 11].
- 21. (Amended) A recombinant vector comprising [at least one of claim 19 and claim 20] the DNA of claim 19.
- 22. (Amended) An expression vector comprising [at least one of claim 19 and 20] the DNA of claim 19.
- 23. (Amended) A transformant obtained by transforming a host cell with the vector of claim 21 [or 22].

26. (Amended) A method for deacylating a side chain acylamino group of a cyclic lipopeptide substance into an amino group, which method comprises culturing a host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 4, [11 or 22,] and bringing the cyclic lipopeptide substance into contact with the obtained culture or a treated product thereof.--

Claims 27-49 (New).

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Takashi SHIBATA et al.

SERIAL NUMBER: 10/019,282

FILED: January 2, 2002

FOR: GENE ENCODING CYCLIC LIPOPEPTIDE ACYLASE AND EXPRESSION OF THE
SAME

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MISSING REQUIREMENTS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS & TRADEMARKS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the notification dated 19 March 2002, and in accordance with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 371, Applicants submit herewith a Rule 63 Declaration and a Preliminary Amendment. As a result of the Preliminary Amendment, no multiple dependencies remain in the claims. Accordingly, no additional claim fees are due.

The required surcharge was paid at the time of filing the application.

In light of the foregoing, this application is deemed to be in proper condition for examination and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Our check in the amount of \$-942.00- is attached hereto. If any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the required Government fee, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time may be charged to Deposit Account No. 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



22850

Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 24,618
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

Declaration, Power of Attorney and Petition

Page 1 of 3

WE (I) the undersigned inventor(s), hereby declare(s) that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

We (I) believe that we are (I am) the original, first, and joint (sole) inventor(s) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

GENE ENCODING CYCLIC LIPOPEPTIDE ACYLASE AND EXPRESSION OF THE SAME

the specification of which

COPY

- ☐ is attached hereto.
- ☒ was filed on January 2, 2002 as
Application Serial No. 10/019,282
and amended on _____
- ☒ was filed as PCT international application
Number PCT/JP00/04285
on June 28, 2000,
and was amended under PCT Article 19
on _____ (if applicable).

We (I) hereby state that we (I) have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

We (I) acknowledge the duty to disclose information known to be material to the patentability of this application as defined in Section 1.56 of Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations.

We (I) hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b), of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed. Prior Foreign Application(s)

Application No.	Country	Day/Month/Year	Priority Claimed	
<u>189644/1999</u>	<u>Japan</u>	<u>02/07/1999</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

We (I) hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application Number)	(Filing Date)
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)

We (I) hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

Application Serial No.	Filing Date	Status (pending, patented, abandoned)
PCT/JP00/04285	June 28, 2000	pending

And we (I) hereby appoint: Norman F. Oblon, Registration Number 24,618; Marvin J. Spivak, Registration Number 24,913; C. Irvin McClelland, Registration Number 21,124; Gregory J. Maier, Registration Number 25,599; Arthur I. Neustadt, Registration Number 24,854; Richard D. Kelly, Registration Number 27,757; James D. Hamilton, Registration Number 28,421; Eckhard H. Kuesters, Registration Number 28,870; Robert T. Pous, Registration Number 29,099; Charles L. Gholz, Registration Number 26,395; Vincent J. Sunderdick, Registration Number 29,004; William E. Beaumont, Registration Number 30,996; Steven B. Kelber, Registration Number 30,073; Robert F. Gnuse, Registration Number 27,295; Jean-Paul Lavalleyè, Registration Number 31,451; Timothy R. Schwart, Registration Number 32,171; Stephen G. Baxter, Registration Number 32,884; Martin M. Zoltick, Registration Number 35,745; Robert W. Hahl, Registration Number 33,893; Richard L. Treanor, Registration Number 36,379; Steven P. Weihrouch, Registration Number 32,829; John T. Goolkasian, Registration Number 26,142; Marc R. Labgold, Registration Number 34,651; William J. Healey, Registration Number 36,160; Richard L. Chinn, Registration Number 34,305; Steven E. Lipman, Registration Number 30,011; Carl E. Schlier, Registration Number 34,426; James J. Kulbaski, Registration Number 34,648; Catherine B. Richardson, Registration Number 39,007; Richard A. Neifeld, Registration Number 35,299; J. Derek Mason, Registration Number 35,270; and Jacques M. Dulin, Registration Number 24,067; our (my) attorneys, with full powers of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent Office connected therewith; and we (I) hereby request that all correspondence regarding this application be sent to the firm of OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C., whose Post Office Address is: Fourth Floor, 1755 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202.

We (I) declare that all statements made herein of our (my) own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Takashi SHIBATA
NAME OF FIRST JOINT INVENTOR

Residence: Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki, Japan

Takashi Shibata
Signature of Inventor

Citizen of: Japan

Post Office Address: 1-20-11-308, Ninomiya, Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki 305-0051 Japan

January 7, 2002
Date

Yuji NOGUCHI
NAME OF SECOND JOINT INVENTOR

Yuji Noguchi
Signature of Inventor

January 8, 2002
Date

Michio YAMASHITA
NAME OF THIRD JOINT INVENTOR

Michio Yamashita
Signature of Inventor

January 7, 2002
Date

Residence: Ama-gun, Aichi, Japan

Citizen of: Japan

Post Office Address: 31-1, Aza-Gotanda,
Oaza-Shimokayatsu, Jimokuji-cho, Ama-gun, Aichi
490-1114 Japan

Residence: Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki, Japan

Citizen of: Japan

Post Office Address: 3-11-11, Namiki, Tsukuba-shi,
Ibaraki 305-0044 Japan